

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 are pending in the present application and subject to the Restriction/Election Requirement mailed February 23, 2006. The Election/Restriction Requirement asserts there are two inventions claimed in the application, Invention I including apparatus claims 1-40 and Invention II including method claims 41-54. In response to the Restriction/Election Requirement, Invention I, claims 1-40, drawn to a spinal stabilization system, is hereby elected without traverse.

Additionally, the Restriction Requirement asserts that there are five species in the application as follows:

Species a: Figure 6

Species b: Figure 7

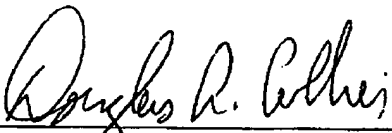
Species c: Figure 11

Species d: Figure 12

Species e: Figure 13

Species b of Figure 7 is hereby elected without traverse. With respect to the elected claims 1-40 of Invention I, it appears that claims 1, 2 and 8-40 are readable at least on the elected Species b, and that at least claim 1 is generic. Accordingly, examination of the present application including claims 1-54 in view of the foregoing election is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted:

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